

The President, Maureen Clarke, welcomed everyone, opened the meeting and gave apologies from the County Captain Helen Maber

Present: Council members: Maureen Clarke President, Jane Fowler Assistant Competition Secretary, Glenys Priestley Senior Vice Captain, Carol Houghton Assistant Vice Captain, Jenny Smith Treasurer, Gillian Stump Website Manager, Dianne Whittaker Assistant Secretary. In addition 35 Lady Secretaries and representatives from Nottinghamshire clubs.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from L Bartram, C Delaney, V Dowthwaite, S Goodwin, C James, C Jones, L Richards, P Sacki and Council Members Helen Maber County Captain, Colette Newton Competition Secretary, Lynn Williams Secretary, Clare Jones Midlands North Rep

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2016

The minutes were agreed as a true record. Proposed by S Bunting, seconded by J Hopkins.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

4. Captain's report

(from Helen Maber)

I am sending this report to you from sunny Queenstown. My apologies for missing the meeting and my thanks to Glenys for standing in for me in my absence. Over the last few months several members of our Executive have been enjoying travels to far parts of the world and I would particularly like to thank our Assistant Secretary, Dianne for so ably standing in for Lynn as she enjoyed her delayed honeymoon in Australia.

Thanks too to Gillian for updating our website with all the information for 2017. This year we have included an information leaflet which gives details of all the fixtures for the year and entry forms are on the site for our competitions.

Our golfing season starts this year on April 19th with our annual first team match against Sheffield Union, this year being played away at Bondhay.

This is closely followed on Wednesday April 26th by the County Waltz at Stanton on the Wolds. Thanks go to Jane Fowler for her efficiency in organising this event which is now fully subscribed and we are looking forward to a successful (and sunny!) day. This competition, together with my County Captains Day in July, are organised to raise funds to support the County 1st and 2nd Teams. Beeston Fields has kindly agreed to host my County Captains Day and the date for this event is July 24th. This event is filling up fast but there are a few places still available and there are application forms here today.

The other event coming up soon is the Mixed AM-AM at Springwater on Sunday 23rd April. This event is run by our juniors to raise funds for their section. We have had a significant number of entries already but there are still places available and entry forms are here today and on the website.

Entry forms for all our traditional County Events are on the website with some wonderful venues for these competitions. This year the Spring Meeting and County Championship are being held at Wollaton on May 12th.

Our Summer Meeting and Veterans' Trophy is being held at Radcliffe on Trent on 10th July and our Autumn Meeting at Chilwell on 4th September.

For the first time this year, we have changed the format of our Coronation Foursomes competition to a four-ball-better-ball and this year it will be held at Rufford on 5th June. We are hoping this will prove to be a more popular format.

Please take some entry forms back to your clubs and encourage your lady members to enter. We would love to see some new ladies taking part in all these days.

This year, County Week will be taking place at Matlock Golf Club during the week commencing 26th June and we are looking forward to another successful year. Please do encourage your members to come along and support the County Team – it is a great opportunity to see some great golf and a good excuse for a day out!

In 2018 Nottinghamshire will be hosting County Week at Hollinwell and we have introduced an additional event this year to raise funds to contribute to the running of this event. Our County Presidents Day AM-AM will be held at Sherwood Forest on 9th October and entry forms are available on the website.

Finally, this year we have two new events organised in conjunction with the Nottinghamshire Golf Union. The first is a mixed pairs competition to be held at Sherwood Forest on 22nd June. This has proved to be very popular and is now fully subscribed. The second is a new medal competition which will be held on 17th September at Worksop. This competition is open to the winners of a nominated club medal held during the season and I hope your committees have now planned this qualifying medal into your fixture lists.

I would like to thank you all in anticipation of your support for these events and wish you a very happy and successful golfing season.

Helen Maber County Captain

Colette and Jane are stepping down from their roles as competition and assistant competition secretaries. We would like to hear from anyone interested in taking up these positions. Those interested may wish to attend county events and see what Jane and Colette do. They would also form part of the executive committee.

Thanks to Colette and Jane for all their hard work and support over the last few years. I am sure they will be around to offer advice as and when required. *G Priestley*

5. Proposal

Previously circulated. See appendix I

Reason for the proposal: There were some rule changes in 2016. NCLGA now wishes to change the membership rules to come in line with England Golf.

M Clarke asked that the ladies vote on the proposal, as printed, for changes to the NCLGA Regulations and Rules. Proposed by M Clarke, seconded by J Fowler. There were no questions. There was unanimous agreement for the proposal

6. Senior Vice Captain's report (Glenys Priestley)

I would just like to mention that the 2nd team matches this year will be:

Lincolnshire away Thursday 6 July to be played at Kenwick Park and home Wednesday 19th July to be played at Norwood Park

Leicestershire away Sunday 23rd July to be played at Cosby and home Thursday 3rd August to be played at Ruddington.

If we win our league the 2nd team finals will be played at Worfield on Thursday 24th August.

I would like to encourage you to come along and watch the golf; the players value your support.

Would secretaries please let me know of any players with handicaps 6-12 interested in playing for the county?

7. Handicap Adviser's report (Maureen Clarke)

Madam Captain, Ladies

Recording of Non-Qualifying Scores

Gemma Hunter, England Golf, emailed me 4 days before Christmas, asking me to send all Club Handicap Secretaries an Information Sheet on the 'Recording of Non Qualifying Scores' to be used as from 1 January 2017. Gemma Hunter also provided a 'Non-Qualifying Scores Return Form' for Handicap Secretaries to display on their notice board for players to fill in.

Clubs running Open Competitions were requested to send to Home Clubs the scores of the top 5 players or teams. A pro forma titled 'Non Qualifying Scores Open Return Form' was provided for Open Organisers to complete and return by post or email to the appropriate clubs.

In the CONGU Handbook, Appendix M, Guidelines for Annual Review/General Play Adjustment, it already states that the Handicap Committee should take account of the player's achievements in Non-Qualifying Competitions, match play Competitions, four ball better ball competitions and other forms of team event in addition to medal play performance.

A few of our Club Handicap Secretaries emailed me explaining their concerns about the initial directive on Non-Qualifying Scores. I fed all these concerns back to Gemma Hunter at England Golf and, as a result, the paper was re-written and re-issued, as Version 2 on 10 January, in an effort to alleviate the concerns expressed. I circulated the new version as soon as it was received.

The revised version stressed that it is up to the **players** to return all scores in competitive golf in Non-Qualifying Competitions **away** from their home clubs, to be used as 'supporting evidence' of performance when it comes to a handicap review. Individual scores or Team results must be returned in Singles, Am-Am and 4BBB but not Texas Scrambles, Foursomes, Greensomes or casual rounds. This has brought us back to the situation that existed when the ladies' first changed to CONGU.

I investigated the reasons behind these requests and learnt that they were as a result of the England Golf Disciplinary Committee receiving a large number of cases to deal with, in respect of players not playing off a realistic handicap, and achieving great success. In fact, some were playing off completely false handicaps. This was stopping other players from entering away events.

On 23 January a Question and Answer Help Sheet on Reporting Non-Qualifying Scores was issued by England Golf, and I passed it on to all Club Handicap Secretaries.

Annual Review

The Handicap Committee must advise players when the Annual Review has taken place, what their new handicap will be, and when their handicap will be changed. This can be communicated by letter, email, telephone or face to face. The Appeals Procedure for players unhappy with the deliberations of the Handicap Committee is to be updated and I will pass it on as soon as I receive it from England Golf.

Nine-hole Qualifiers

Players playing in 9-hole Qualifying Competitions must put their 18-hole Playing Handicap on their score card and then the number of strokes allowed for the 9 holes – their Stroke Allowance. The chart received from England Golf related to the particular 9 holes should be available for the players to check their stroke allowance using their Exact Handicap (which includes the points). Please be aware that there is a large range of Exact Handicaps that will receive the same number of strokes.

Compliance Check List

England Golf has asked me to remind Handicap Secretaries to use Appendix L UHS Compliance Check List to ensure their Club is fulfilling all the criteria mentioned. In particular, Clause 17 - Accept that adjusting the conditions of a competition e.g. Open singles, to make it Non-Qualifying on a technicality is an abuse of the spirit and intent of the UHS that may result in the Union imposing sanctions under Clause 6.2.

Continuous Handicap Review Guidance

The Continuous Handicap Review Guidance was received from England Golf last week and passed on to all Club Handicap Secretaries.

Club Handicap Secretaries

Please do keep giving me your feedback for onward transmission to England Golf. I have great confidence that, in Nottinghamshire, our Club Handicap Secretaries are doing all they can to administer the CONGU Unified Handicapping System correctly.

Thank you.

Maureen Clarke County Handicap Adviser

In response to recording of non qualifying scores, and why it has been introduced, there was a suggestion that 3 qualifying scores per year are insufficient. More cards e.g. 7 should be compulsory to retain a Competition Handicap. This should give a more realistic handicap. M Clarke replied saying that it has already been considered by England Golf but they had decided against it. It does seem a good idea, though.

Returning NQ scores was seen as a potential problem. It was suggested that forms for recording NQ scores from open comps could be given to each player to keep their record. M Clarke agreed that this was a good idea.

A query was raised if returning NQ scores applied to mixed and men's competitions. M Clarke confirmed that yes it does.

8. Financial report (Jenny Smith)

1. The balance on the 1st March is:
 - a. Current account: £2,805.15
 - b. Reserve Account: £30,652.89
2. At the beginning of our financial year in October the figures were as follows
 - a. Current Account: £2,216.37
 - b. Reserve Account: £22650.03
3. The payment of affiliation fees, our main source of income, has changed this year. Whilst last year at a similar time 20 clubs had already paid their fees, this year only 4 clubs have so far paid, but the figures do show an increase in members to the 4 clubs of 14 and 1 junior member. We are hoping this will be an upward trend for the rest of the year. To remind you how the new system operates. Club A subscriptions are due on the 1st February. The affiliation fees for that club are due to the county 2 months after that date ie 1st April. If the fees are not then paid by July 1st the membership of the affiliated club shall immediately lose its SS rating and CONGU handicaps. I do not anticipate any problems from clubs based on last year but it does mean that our cash flow could be affected as most clubs' affiliation fees are not due until June 1st. However, one positive point from this change is that half way through the year there will be a 'mop up' to catch new member's fees that have joined clubs after their initial subscription date.

4. It is pleasing to report that our Junior Section has received donations of £1240.72. Thank you to the individuals and clubs who are supporting this section.
5. We have a busy two years ahead of us and next year with the 6 Counties event at Notts Golf Club we will require some help with funding. If any clubs can offer help it would be very much appreciated.

Jenny Smith Treasurer

9. Midland North report

From Clare Jones

NCLGA Council Meeting 13th March 2017

County President, County Officials and Ladies

Please accept my apologies for being unable to join you today; hopefully I am currently completing a sunny round of golf in Southern Spain before flying back to the East Midlands later today.

I attended my first England Golf General meeting in November. One of the main items was an update on the recruitment of a full-time Chair for England Golf. The appointment of a paid official is in line with other similar sporting bodies. The recruitment process is ongoing, the closing date for applications was the end of February and so I hope to be able to report on an appointment before the next Council meeting.

A Championship Working Group has also been established and Peggy Rimmington, Leicestershire's Midlands North representative will be attending a meeting tomorrow on behalf of the region. Working groups at the meeting will be discussing the events run at regional level, how they fit in with the current England Golf elite schedule and the challenges faced in running such events.

At the November meeting Nottinghamshire received a positive mention as one of the counties with an increase in club membership by ladies and junior girls. Keep up the good work!

I will be attending the April general meeting and will report back at the July council meeting.

The Midlands North representatives met at Beeston Fields on February 20th. We have a number of new representatives and so are on a steep learning curve together.

The MNR competitions for 2017 are now all scheduled as are many for 2018; we are also starting to prepare for 2019 by booking courses and dates. For 2017 entries for the Foursomes on April 24th at Shifnal are coming in but more entries would be welcome. I know that foursomes and 36 holes may be daunting but please consider entering – there are both gross and net prizes.

The Queen of Clubs competition is being hosted at Lingdale GC on July 21st and the entry form is available on the county website.

May I also make a special plea for you to encourage your junior girls to enter the Girls Championship at Ruddington Grange on August 28th? As the host county it would be great to see a strong Nottinghamshire contingent. We do know that the juniors have a busy schedule especially throughout the summer but we remain committed to running this competition and would like to receive as many entries as possible.

Clare Jones Midlands North Representative

10. Junior report (Emma Howie)

(i) Diary and Newsletter

A junior newsletter was circulated last month along with the junior diary to all the girls. Both have also been published on the NCLGA website.

There is a busy season again which starts with coaching sessions, one this month with Zen putting for our 1&2nd team squads, followed by a coaching get together for all girls in the Easter holidays.

The girls also have their Mixed AM-AM fundraiser at Springwater on Sunday 23rd April. This day is run by the girls for their junior funds - they work hard to ensure you have a great day out. If you have not already entered a team please do so as it is really important to ensure we have sufficient funds to keep developing our juniors. Entry forms are on the website and here are still some spaces left.

(ii) Girls Golf Rocks

After our successful pilot last year, which was a finalist in the Nottinghamshire Sports awards for 'Sporting project of the year', we have again been identified by England Golf to run the project within the county.

This year the 4 clubs participating are: Beeston, Norwood, Stanton and Coxmoor. I would encourage the ladies committees at these clubs to be involved with the delivery and follow up coaching arranged by your pros. It is a great chance to try and engage and retain junior girls for your club. The posters and flyers about the project will be circulated soon and it starts at the end of April.

Emma Anderson from our junior committee will continue to lead on this project. At this point I'd also like to congratulate Emma who has been shortlisted as 'Young Ambassador of the Year' in the England Golf award for 2017. They take place later this week at Lord's in London so we will keep our fingers crossed!

(iii) Coaching bursaries

We are continuing the coaching bursaries scheme for the girls. Application forms have been circulated to the girls and are available on the website. The closing date is Sunday 23rd April

(iv) Junior Committee

I met with the treasurer in January to ensure we have a sound budget plan for the junior funds this year. A proposed budget was taken to the junior committee meeting in February and approved.

I'm also pleased to report we have filled the newly created role of Assistant Junior Co-ordinator. Julie Craggs from Oakmere Park has agreed to join the committee and help out primarily with the younger girls attending the Nippers tour events and our own par 3, 9 hole competitions.

11. Webmasters report (Gillian Stump)

The website is as up to date as possible and is being constantly revised as information comes in. It all seems to be working well and is hopefully a useful source of information.

The new website, mentioned at the AGM, has now been created in conjunction with the NUGC and Nottinghamshire Golf. It is meant as a portal for those generally seeking information on golf in Nottinghamshire. The site is now live at www.nottinghamshiregolf.com but is still 'work in progress'. The new site has links to our own NCLGA website so that hopefully any lady golfers who come across it in a search will go on to look at our site. Whilst it is useful as a portal, any ladies who are already golfers within Nottinghamshire will still find our own NCLGA website the best first point of call for information. If you'd like to have a look at it there is a link from our own homepage.

A question was raised about getting information on the mixed interclub as some ladies find it difficult to find information on the NUGC website. It was asked whether the information could be added to the NCLGA website.

G Stump advised that she wasn't sure how the mixed interclub is organised and believes it is drawn after each round so it couldn't be added in the same way as the Ladies Interclub is, but she would consider what could be added to the site, and where, in order to make it readily available to our members.

12. Secretary's notes

- Interclub: Change of 2nd & 3rd round clubs. Coxmoor now 2nd round on 12th June. RoT now 3rd round 3rd July. All clubs informed and information is on NCLGA web site. All host clubs have been contacted to confirm tee times. Some had not received information. Please check again that tee times are reserved. A reminder that clubs are no longer expected to provide meals. Competing clubs should make and agree their own arrangements
- Thanks to those clubs that have agreed to host matches
- Club officials: L Williams had received updates. If there are more changes then please let me know ASAP then update will be sent to all secretaries. Thanks to those who have sent information. Detail required: phone numbers, landline and mobile, email addresses for club secretary/manager, county contact, lady secretary, lady captain, match secretary, handicap secretary
- Club reps: Would all secretaries please send, again, the contact details of their NCLGA club reps? This may have been sent previously but records need to be confirmed
- County information card: Various corrections have been made and the card circulated to all clubs. Please check that the latest version is in use

13. AOB

(i) M Clarke thanked Wollaton and Beeston golf clubs for their donations to County Juniors. Thanks also to G Priestley for chairing the meeting and Coxmoor for the use of the premises

(ii) County President's Day: AM-AM competition 9th October 2017 at Sherwood. Funds generated will go to support hosting Nottinghamshire County Week at Hollinwell 2018. Please encourage teams to enter

14. Date of next meeting

Monday 17th July at Beeston Fields Golf Club at 10.30am

Meeting was closed at 11.15am

APPENDIX I

PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO THE NCLGA REGULATIONS AND RULES.

Changes are proposed to the wording of the following sections in our Regulations and Rules:

1. Change to Regulation 8 (a)
2. Change to Conditions governing the Constitution of County Associations
Item 4 County Championships

1. Change to Regulation 8 (a):

To remove reference to EWGA (now no longer in existence) and to bring our membership conditions in line with those of England Golf.

Current wording:

8 Conditions for Membership of the County

(a) Payment of a per capita levy the sum of which shall be decided at an Annual General Meeting, entitles playing members of affiliated clubs to County Membership as either :-

i) **Full Members** who possess one or more of the Qualifications laid down in the **EWGA County Golf Regulations**. Full Members are entitled to play in all County Competitions and for the County Team in the County Golf Championship.

Or –

ii) **Associate Members** who are Full Members of another County. Associate members are entitled to play in all county competitions including inter club matches, but are excluded from the County Golf Championships and County Teams.

Proposed revised wording:

8 Conditions for Membership of the County

(a) Payment of a per capita levy the sum of which shall be decided at an Annual General Meeting, entitles players to County Membership as

Either:-

i). **Full Members** who are entitled to play in all County Competitions, including the County Amateur Golf Championship and for the County Team in the Inter County Matches. They must be of Amateur Status as defined by the R&A Golf Club of St Andrews and possess one or more of the following County Qualifications. They must EITHER be a member of an affiliated Club in the County OR must have been born in the County and be a member of an affiliated club in another English County.

Or –

ii). **Associate Members** who are Full Members of another County Association. Associate members are entitled to play in all County Competitions including inter-club matches, but are not entitled to play in the County Amateur Golf Championship and the County Team in the Inter County Matches.

2. Conditions governing the Constitution of County Associations

Current wording for Condition 4 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS:

4. COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS: Shall be open only to Full Members of the County Association.

Proposed revised wording for Condition 4:

4. COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS: Shall be open only to Full Members of the County Association, provided they do not or have not played for another County in Representative matches, including friendly matches, during the same calendar year.

Date: 1 February 2017